

## The Tennessee Department of Labor & Workforce Development Nashville, TN 615-741-2257

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Phil Bredesen Governor FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 23, 2003

James Neeley Commissioner

## **Employers Enthusiastic about Online Premium and Wage Reporting**

NASHVILLE—Tennessee employers are pleased with the ease of the Tennessee Department of Labor & Workforce Development's new online premium and wage reporting system. The system, also known as TNPAWS, is for the payment of unemployment insurance taxes and also for the recording of wage information necessary for the monetary determination of unemployment benefits.

"TNPAWS offers several advantages over paper reporting," said Labor & Workforce Development Commissioner James Neeley. "During the first four weeks the new system was available to employers, more than 5,000 reports were filed. Ninety percent of employers who used the new online format said it was easy to use and that they would use it again to file their quarterly reports," Neeley said.

The information gathered from TNPAWS does not have to be scanned or keyed and is more accurately processed. TNPAWS will always use the correct rate when calculating premiums due, and postal costs are eliminated when filing reports with no premiums due. The system is designed to calculate total, excess and taxable wages, which eliminates mathematical errors.

The most significant advantage of the system is its ability to display, from one quarter to the next, individual employee wages submitted, thereby reducing the need to enter employees' names and social security numbers quarter after quarter. The employer will then be able to add and/or delete employees to prepare the current quarter's report.

Employer comments on the new system are very positive; "One of the best sites I have used." "Great system! I am very excited to see my state government taking steps to simplify the red tape!" The Department of Labor and Workforce Development continues to monitor comments and suggestions in order to improve the system, and hopes to have even more advances available for employers next quarter.

Employers can begin using TNPAWS at any time during the year and are urged to take advantage of the new online system this quarter. The site is accessible at <a href="www.tn.gov/labor-wfd">www.tn.gov/labor-wfd</a> by clicking on "Online Services" at the top of the page.

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